

From: Harry Alford
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/28/02 8:03pm
Subject: Microsoft filing Kansas from National Black Chamber of Commerce

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Email Address: <mailto:Microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov> microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) promotes the interests of the more than 64,000 Black-owned businesses in the United States. We have 201 affiliated chapters located in 40 states, including Kansas, and eight countries.

Although NBCC generally supports allowing the market to sort out competitive issues between corporations, we believe that in this case it is simply too late for self-regulation. Microsoft has stifled competition at every turn in its history. It is time for a change. Unfortunately, the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice will not effect this change. It is far too weak ? its requirements are not expansive enough and its enforcement mechanism is not strict enough.

We agree with Attorney General Carla J. Stovall?s position that more must be done to rein in Microsoft?s anti-competitive behavior. Specifically, to promote competition and innovation, and provide alternatives to consumers, Microsoft should be required to:

- * Offer competing developers a stand-alone, unbundled version of Windows without built-in software
- * Share the code for its Internet browser, Internet Explorer, with other software developers.
- * Auction to potential competitors the right to create the Office software suite to operate on different operating system platforms.
- * Include Sun Microsystems? version of Java software in its latest operation system, Windows XP.

Finally, we believe that the court should implement an effective means of imposing punishment in the event of noncompliance and that empower a court-appointed master to oversee the settlement. As it stands now, there is not only no effective punishment mechanism, there is no one even there to enforce the settlement!

In closing, I would just like to reiterate our support for these additional

measures to be included in the final settlement.

Sincerely,
Harry C. Alford
Harry C. Alford
President & CEO